

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this Application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

After entry of the foregoing Amendment, Claims 1-6 are pending in the present Application. Claims 1 and 4-6 have been amended. Support for the amendment of Claims 1 and 4-6 can be found in the specification at least at FIG. 18. No new matter has been added.

By way of summary, the Official Action presents the following issues: Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Dworkin (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0071,540).

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Official Action has rejected Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being anticipated by Dworkin. The Official Action states that Dworkin discloses all of the Applicants' claim features with the exception of generating a chat space at a predetermined time. However, the Official Action takes official notice that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the advancement was made to generate a chat space at a predetermined time to arrive at the Applicants' claims. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, an information processing apparatus, including:

an acquiring unit configured to acquire reservation information, sent by the first terminal, to the information processing apparatus from a reservation data base in order to provide the first service to the second and third terminals, the second and third terminals receiving a distribution notice in accordance with a second terminal address email and a third terminal email address of the reservation from the information processing apparatus, the distribution notice, including shared authentication data, a description of the first service, scheduling information and hyperlink data; . . .

an authenticating unit to authenticate the second and third terminals by the use of the shared authentication data;

a providing unit configured to provide the chat space to the first terminal, and the chat space and first service to the second and third terminals

designated to be distributed by the first terminal, the chat space and first service being provided to the second and third terminals upon authentication via actuation of the hyperlink and at a time identified by the scheduling information of the distribution notice.

Dworkin describes an application service provider environment for providing a distributed conferencing configuration. As shown in Fig. 1 of this reference, the configuration (99) includes a plurality of users (100A-100F) employing the Internet (104). Conferencing resources (112) include both hardware and software components, which are hosted and managed by a conferencing application service provider (110).¹

In operation, the users (100) may employ the services of the conferencing configuration to facilitate distribution of data and video conferencing without the expense and overhead associated with owning and maintaining their own conference resources. For example, an individual user (100A) would register with the application service provider (ASP) and be provided with an application program interface (API) to receive the necessary software for support facilitating communication with the provider. Likewise, the user may use third-party instant messaging software to communicate with other user.

Conversely, in an exemplary embodiment of Applicants' invention, a live distribution service for streaming contents to users is provided in accordance with a reservation made in advance. In operation, a user, such as a personal computer (3), provides contents for distribution according to a reservation to a streaming server (5). Personal computers (4-1 - 4-3) receive the streaming contents based upon emailed distribution information including, shared authentication data, a description of the first service, scheduling information and hyperlink data. The streamed contents are received from the streaming server according to the reservation made by the personal computer (3). Distribution notices are provided to terminals via email in accordance with the reservation, so that terminals included in the

¹ Dworkin at paragraph 14.

reservation upon authentication, actuate the hyperlink in accordance with the scheduling information to receive the first and second services.

Dworkin does describe emailed distribution notices including the information as recited in amended Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1, and Claims 2-6, which recite substantially similar limitations to those discussed above, patently define over Dworkin; and, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Consequently, in view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present Application, including Claims 1-6, is patently distinguished over the prior art, in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

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